

Name: _____

Date: _____



WHAT TO KNOW!

Using the Modal Verbs

A **modal verb** is a type of auxiliary verb that is used to indicate modality that is likelihood, ability, permission, and obligation. Common modal verbs include: can / could, may / might, must, will / would, and shall / should. Modal verbs tend to precede another verb.

Modals do not have subject-verb agreement. They are used to indicate modality. It is important to learn the unique aspects of modal verbs and how they function within the context of a sentence.

Here is a chart to show some modal verbs, the types, and how they are used in sentences.

TYPE	MODAL VERBS	EXAMPLES
Ability	can, could	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David can speak three languages. He could speak fluent French when he was five.
Permission	can, could, may	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can I sit in that chair, please? Could I open the window? May I borrow your dictionary?
Advice	should	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You should visit your dentist at least twice a year. You should try to lose weight.
Obligation	must, have to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I must memorize all of these rules about tenses. You have to take off your shoes before you get into the mosque.
Possibility	might, may, could, can	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It looks nice, but it might be very expensive. Richard may be coming to see us tomorrow. She could finish her project tonight. Flooding can get worse when we do not observe proper waste management.

Source: <https://7esl.com/modal-verbs/>



STARTER




Directions: Circle the modal verb used in each sentence.

1. We can definitely win the battle if we work on our game plan.
2. You should listen very well to your parents.
3. May I be excused for a while?
4. I must go home already.
5. I have to tell you the truth no matter the consequences.
6. Could you pass me the soup?
7. I could find more sponsors for our group project.
8. I can speak and understand Ilocano.
9. She might also join the ballet class in the community.
10. We should start planting more vegetables at home.



TAKE OFF

Directions: Study the table below that shows the things that people in the list can do and cannot do. Complete the sentence with *can* or *cannot*.

						
Ann	×	✓	✓	✓	×	✓
Mike	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓
Tim and Samantha	×	✓	×	✓	✓	×
Cathy	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓
John and Paul	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×

1. Mike can dance but Ann _____.
2. Cathy can swim but she _____ cook.
3. Tim and Samantha _____ ride a bike.
4. John and Paul _____ play the guitar but they _____ sing.

5. Mike _____ play the guitar but Cathy _____.
6. Mike _____ ride a bike but he _____ cook.
7. Tim and Samantha _____ swim but they _____ sing.



A. **Directions:** Choose the correct word or phrase that will complete the sentences. Write the answers on the blank.

1. I am not really sure but I _____ come back tomorrow.
must may should
2. _____ I have some more water, please?
Could Might Should
3. He _____ have studied more for the exam and spend less time playing with the computer.
can should have to
4. _____ I use your mobile phone? It's an emergency.
Must May Should
5. I _____ believe my eyes. Is Jorge the one who is standing there?
can't mustn't shouldn't

B. **Directions:** Write a sentence for each modal verb as indicated by the type.

1. **Can**

Ability: _____

2. **May**

Permission: _____

3. **Should**

Advice: _____

4. **Must**

Obligation: _____

5. **Might**

Possibility: _____

References:

_____. (2018, May 12). Modal Verb: Definition, Examples and List of Modal Verbs in English. 7esl.com. Accessed Dec. 4, 2020 from <https://7esl.com/modal-verbs/>

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ANSWER KEY

Using the Modal Verbs

can	.
should	.
may	.
must	.
have to	.
could	.
could	.
can	.
might	.
should	.

Starter:

cannot	.
cannot	.
can	.
can, cannot	.
cannot, can	.
can, cannot	.
cannot, can	.
can, cannot	.
cannot, can	.

Take Off:

Activity A:	.
May	.
Could	.
Should	.
May	.
Can't	.
Activity B: Answers may vary.	.

Fly High: